



EPW

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of
Wilhelm **HOFMANN** et al.

Confirmation No.: **7241**
Art Group: **3746**

Appln. No.: **10/558,938**

Filed: **12/01/2005**

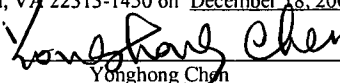
For: **DEVICE AND METHOD FOR CONTROLLING A THICK MATTER PUMP**

Attorney Docket No.: **3827-142**

Customer Number: **30448**

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited either by facsimile to 571-273-8300 or with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 18, 2006.


Yonghong Chen, Reg. No. 56,150

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98**

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the following documents for the above-identified application. Copies of any non-US documents set forth below and listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A, copy of the International Search Report (ISR) and the German Search Report issued in the corresponding applications are provided herewith. A copy of an English translation of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability is also enclosed herewith.

1. DE 42 06 576 A1 (English abstract provided)

2. EP 0 562 398 A1 (English abstract provided)
3. EP 0 567 826 A2 (English abstract provided)
4. DE 195 42 258 A1 (English abstract provided)
5. DE 100 38 647 A1 (English abstract provided)
6. US 5,401,140

Documents 1-3 are cited in the ISR. Documents 4-6 are cited in the German Search Report. A concise explanation of relevancy for each non-English document is provided below:

Document 1

It is indicated in the ISR that column 2, line 1 – column 3, line 11, column 6, line 19 – column 7, line 13, claim 1, and figure 1 of Document 1 are "A" category relevant to claims 1 and 6 of the corresponding PCT application.

Document 2

It is indicated in the ISR that page 2, lines 1-53, page 6, line 31 – page 8, line 21, claims 1-2, and figure 1 of Document 2 are "A" category relevant to claims 1 and 6 of the corresponding PCT application.

Document 3

It is indicated in the ISR that column 2, lines 8-42, column 3, line 35 – column 4, line 21, claim 1, and figure 1 of Document 1 are "A" category relevant to claims 1 and 6 of the corresponding PCT application.

Document 4

It is indicated in the German Search Report that Document 4 is "A" category relevant to the corresponding German application.

Document 5

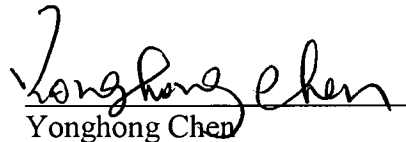
It is indicated in the German Search Report that column 2, lines 16-43 of Document 5 is "Y" category relevant to claim 1 of the corresponding German application.

Since the present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first office Action, no certificate under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08A be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,



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PTO/SB/08A (07-05)